



**NATIONAL SURVEY
OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES
FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**

www.icprwb.org

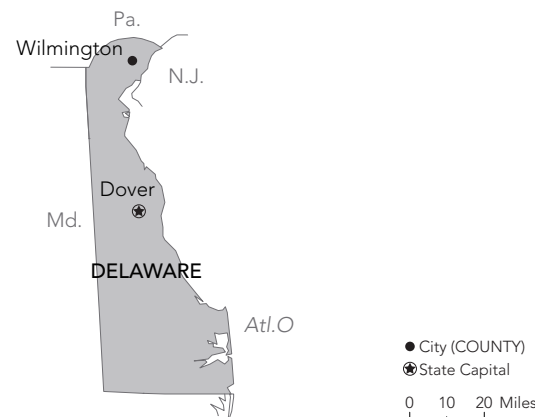
from the INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN, POVERTY, AND HOMELESSNESS

Delaware had an estimated 117 homeless families on a single night in 2009, with providers serving more than three times their bed capacity over the course of the year.¹ This brief summarizes some of the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.

State Taskforce on Homelessness

Taskforce: The Delaware Interagency Council on Homelessness (established by executive order in March 2005 and codified by legislation in August 2008) implements the state's ten-year plan to end homelessness.

Governor's Appointee: Susan Starrett, Executive Director of the Homeless Planning Coalition of Delaware, has chaired the Delaware Interagency Council on Homelessness since November 2010.



Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization

	Delaware	Wilmington
Persons in homeless families ²	354	161
Number of family shelter beds ³	510	266
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) ⁴	12	82
Percent of families in poverty ⁵	11.79%	24.53%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	2007	No plan
10-Year plan target population	Chronic	No plan
Point-in-time count frequency	Annually	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	Homeless Planning Council of Delaware	Homeless Planning Council of Delaware
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Homeless Planning Council of Delaware	Homeless Planning Council of Delaware
Main organizing agency or Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant	Homeless Planning Council of Delaware	Homeless Planning Council of Delaware

Aiding Homeless and At-risk Families in The First State

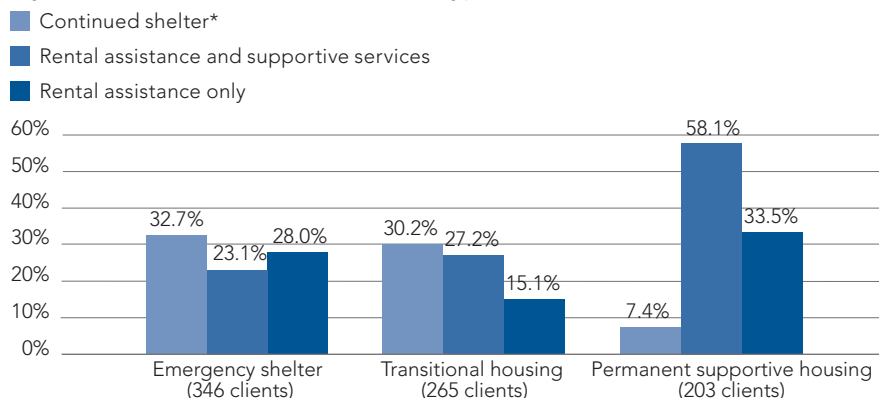
Delaware experienced a 23.1% increase (from 281 to 346) in the number of homeless persons in families between 2008 and 2010. One-third (34.4%) of all homeless family members accessed emergency shelters on the night of the 2010 count, half (49.4%) stayed in transitional housing, and 9.5% resided in permanent supportive housing. According to a 2006 study, Delaware spent an average of \$29.87 per day (or \$10,904 per year) to operate each emergency shelter bed in the state, \$31.26 (\$11,410) for transitional housing bed, and \$75.60 (\$27,594) for permanent supportive housing bed. When asked what housing services they required to exit homelessness, comparable rates of emergency shelter and transitional housing residents identified continued shelter (roughly 31%) or a combination of rental assistance and supportive services (approximately 25%). A higher percentage of emergency shelter clients (28.0% compared to 15.1% of transitional housing residents) required rental aid only. Nine out of ten (91.6%) permanent supportive housing clients needed rental assistance or a rental subsidy combined with supportive services.⁶

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The *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families* is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on Delaware and other states, visit www.icprwb.org

Financial assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services are available to Delawareans in need through the one-time federal Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-housing Program. Wilmington was awarded a \$1,008,057 grant in 2009 and has disbursed 90.9% of funds as of January 2011. New Castle County, where 78.7% of the state's homeless persons were enumerated in 2010, received \$978,285 (78.1% spent) and the Delaware State Housing Authority secured \$934,980 (80.9% expended).⁷ Separate data are not available for families.

Housing Services Needed to Exit Homelessness (by service and clients' current shelter type)



*Continued shelter includes short-term shelter (up to 30 days), intermediate shelter (90–180 days), and medium-term housing (up to two years).

Source: Homeless Planning Council of Delaware, *Homelessness in Delaware: Summary of the 2010 Point-in-Time Study and Comparison of 2009 and 2010 Data*; Susan Starrett (Executive Director, Homeless Planning Council of Delaware), interview with ICPH, February 2011.

Income and Employment in the Corporate Capital

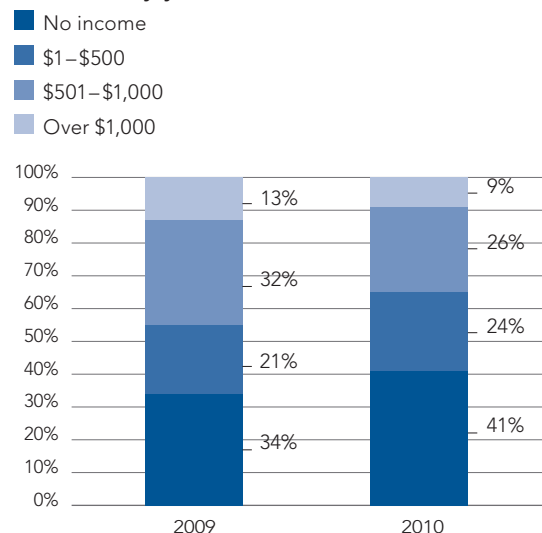
The proportion of homeless individuals and family members in Delaware without any income or earning less than \$500 per month increased from 55% in 2009 to 65% in 2010. While 9% had incomes of over \$1,000 in 2010, the average monthly household income required to afford (spend no more than 30% of income on) a two-bedroom rental apartment in Delaware was \$3,008. In 2009, half (50%) of the state's renter households were cost-burdened (using more than 30% of household income for rent), up from 34% in 2000.⁸

In 2009, homeless persons received income from Social Security, Social Security Disability Insurance, or Supplemental Security Income (34%); employment (29%); and General Assistance or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (23%).⁹ In fiscal year 2009, 16% of homeless persons staying in emergency shelter, transitional housing, or permanent supportive housing programs were employed at entry, compared with 33% upon exit.¹⁰ Separate data are not available for families.

Feeding Food Insecure Delawareans

The Food Bank of Delaware, the local affiliate of the national non-profit organization, served an estimated 241,600 unduplicated homeless or low-income family members and individuals in 2010 through a network of 167 agencies. Established in 1981, the organization addresses food insecurity through direct food distribution and a range of supportive services aimed at reducing poverty. In 2010, 16.2% of clients served were homeless or lived doubled-up with family and friends. Households with children comprised 57.7% of food pantry visitors and 53.6% of shelter program beneficiaries. In 2008, 79.1% of homeless Food Bank clients had an income at or below 75% of the federal poverty level and 12.3% had no income.¹¹

Level of Income for Sheltered Homeless Persons (by year)



Source: Homeless Planning Council of Delaware, *Summary of the 2009 Point-in-Time Study and Comparison of 2006, 2008 and 2009 Data*; Homeless Planning Council of Delaware, *Homelessness in Delaware: Summary of the 2010 Point-in-Time Study and Comparison of 2009 and 2010 Data*.

Endnotes

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- Susan Starrett (Executive Director, Homeless Planning Council of Delaware), interview with ICPH, February 2011; Steven W. Peuquet, et al., "Homelessness in Delaware: Twenty Years of Data Collection and Research" (conference presentation, Ending Homelessness in Delaware Conference, Newark, DE, February 23, 2007); U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD's 2008 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations; Homeless Planning Council of Delaware, *Homelessness in Delaware: Summary of the 2010 Point-in-Time Study and Comparison of 2009 and 2010 Data*.
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- Homeless Planning Council of Delaware, 2009 Point-in-Time Study.
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- Mathematica Policy Research, Inc., *Hunger in America 2010: Local Report Prepared for The Food Bank of Delaware*.